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English 553 - Shakespeare

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Shakespeare’s Shrews: Progress Report

*Working thesis:*

Women in Shakespearean comedy often contradict the social norms of Elizabethan England.

*Topic:*

This essay will focus on traditional women’s roles in Elizabethan England and examine the way women in Shakespeare’s comedies go against these norms.

*Progress:*

My original topic proposal seemed a bit broad. Based on my initial online searches, I was worried about finding enough information to meet the essay length requirements. However, upon using the search tools for the class, I found a great deal of information that better matched my search criteria. I will keep the focus on the three main areas of a woman’s life as mentioned in my proposal: unmarried women and marriage/family, professions and education, and women’s role and involvement in society.

At first, I intended to organize the essay in such a way to include women who opposed social norms in all of Shakespeare’s plays. As I continued to research, the majority of information pertained to women in Shakespeare’s comedies. I have narrowed my topic as a result of my current research.

While I feel confident about this essay, there are a large number of articles to process. I would greatly appreciate you pointing me toward any really great articles or books that pertain directly to my topic?